

# Thanksgiving Holiday Safety

*Safety tips to help you and your family have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.*

## 1

### Be Prepared for Guests

- Keep your family and overnight guests safe with a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and in the halls adjacent to the bedrooms. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries annually.
- If you are having young children in your home, do a safety check of your home. Are matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach? Are medicines and cleaners out of reach? Do your outlets have covers? Do a thorough check of each room the children will occupy.
- Overnight guests should be instructed on the fire escape plan and designated meeting place for your home.
- If smoking is allowed inside, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After guests leave, check inside and under upholstery and in trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Before guests leave, be sure that guests and children are buckled up properly in vehicles. Ensure that designated drivers have not been drinking. Impaired driving is a concern for every person who travels by car. The majority of children who die at the hands of impaired drivers aren't killed by impaired drivers who run into them, but are the victims of drinking parents or those who transport them.

## 2

### Cook Safely

- Have a fire extinguisher available not more than 10 feet from the stove, on the exit side of the room.
- Know how to use your fire extinguisher. A 2-1/2 lb. class ABC multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is recommended.
- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.
- When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- Cook on the back burners when possible. Turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.

## 3

### Remember Fire Prevention

- Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.
- Candles are often part of holiday decorations. Always keep a burning candle within sight. Candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, or after going to bed. Candles should be located where children will not be tempted to play with them, and where guests will not accidentally brush against them. The candle holder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over. The candle should not have combustible decorations around it.

**References:** National Fire Protection Association on line at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org); The National Candle Association on line at [www.candles.org](http://www.candles.org); Association of Home Appliance manufacturers [www.aham.org](http://www.aham.org) ; Impaired Driving Fact Sheet, Center for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control on line at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/driving.htm>